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fail to be of real assistance to all students of the law. A very full index and the citation of many recent cases will make it equally serviceable to the practitioner.

L. F. S.

**A HISTORY OF FRENCH PRIVATE LAW.** By Jean Brissaud. Translated from the second French Edition by Rapelje Howell, with Introductions by W. S. Holdsworth and John H. Wigmore. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1912. pp. xlviii, 922.

This, the second volume published in The Continental Legal History Series, is volume two of Professor Brissaud's complete work. Volume one, which deals with the history of French public law, will be published as volume nine of the series. The introductory chapter on Primitive Law has, however, been transferred from the latter volume to this.

After the introductions by Dean Wigmore and Professor Holdsworth, nothing remains to be said as to the position occupied by Professor Brissaud's work among the many histories of French law. For depth of scholarship and for the wideness of the field covered, it is not surpassed by any, and its value to the student of Anglo-American law is increased many times by the constant references to English books of authority. French legal history, if for no other reason than because of the light it tends to throw upon the beginnings of our own law, ought to be of the greatest interest and importance to us. But apart from this, Professor Brissaud's history has a value for us. His painstaking and careful working out of doctrines and institutions, which, so far as the law of northern France is concerned, have in their origins many things in common with those of English law, but which now have become widely different, cannot but help to overcome, what Professor Holdsworth in his introduction calls "a complacent, and, may we add, an uninformed belief, in the excellencies of our own private law." The excellencies of the common law, no one who is not ignorant will care to deny, but there is nothing more petrifying in its effect upon the development of our law than the belief, formerly more widely held than now, that the common law is the final word in juristic science. Professor Brissaud's history, with its great wealth of detail and its profound scholarship, ought to convince any who may still hold such views, that no system of law, however perfect, is a finality.

Professor Brissaud has considered his subject matter by topics and not by periods, and a chapter is devoted to each of the following: The Family, Ownership and Real Rights, Obligations, Interstate Succession and Gratuitous Conveyances, System of Property between Spouses, Status and Capacity of Persons.

The translation seems well done, though there are awkward constructions here and there and some errors, probably those of the printer. The use of "statu quo," in the nominative and objective cases, as on pages 319 and 333, can hardly be defended.

E. R. J.

**GESCHICHTE DER QUELLEN UND LITTERATUR DES ROEMISCHEN RECHTS.** By Paul Krueger. Second Edition. Munich and Leipzig: Duncker and Humblot. 1912. pp. x, 444.

This second edition of Professor Krueger's monumental work will be warmly welcomed and eagerly read by all interested in the history of the sources and literature of Roman law, for it contains the results of the most recent discoveries in archæology bearing upon the subject. The chief value of this second edition lies indeed in the additions made in consequence of these new discoveries of source-material rather than in the few changes here and there found